Laying of cable in sea by VSNL

†924. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether VSNL is contemplating any plan to lay cables in the sea in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of plan to lay cables in the sea by VSNL are given in the Statement.

Statement

Plans to lay Cables in Sea by VSNL

VSNL is currently involved in two undersea cable system landing in India. While one cable system Sea Me We 4 is a consortium cable system, second cable system known as TIIs Cable System is exclusively undertaken by VSNL.

1. SMW4 Cable Project:-

VSNL is participating in the consortium cable system called "Sea-Me-We-4" Submarine Cable System connecting Singapore in South East Asia to France in West Europe passing *via* Middle East countries. For the purpose, VSNL has signed jointly a Construction and Maintenance Agreement (C&MA) with 15 other parties of various countries including M/s Bharti from India. This cable shall have two landings in India at Mumbai and Chennai.

2. TIISCS (Tata Indicom India-Singapore Cable System)

VSNL in implementing a submarine fibre optic cable system known as the Tata Indicom India - Singapore Cable System (TIISCS) linking Chennai, India to Singapore.

While SMW 4 project is likely to be completed by Q3, 2005, TIIS Cables System is likely to be ready for service by Q4, 2004.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.